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CLAIMS:

5 What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing a system, comprising:
determining a period for sending management
information requests to the system;
10 sending a management information request to the
system in accordance with the determined period; and
performing management of the system based on a
response received from the system, wherein the period for
sending the management information request is determined
15 based on an operating status of the system.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining a period
for sending management information requests includes
time-decaying the period if the operating status of the
20 system is determined to be normal.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining a period
for sending management information requests includes
increasing the period by a decay amount if the operating
25 status of the system is determined to be normal.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining a period
for sending management information requests includes
reducing the period by a boost amount if the operating
30 status of the system is determined to be other than
normal.

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5. The method of claim 3, wherein the decay amount is variable.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the boost amount is
5 variable.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the operating status of the system is determined based on a value of a predicate function.

10

8. The method of claim 8, wherein the steps of determining, sending and performing are performed by a specialized management thin server or server appliance.

15 9. An apparatus for managing a system, comprising:
determination means for determining a period for sending management information requests to the system;
sending means for sending management information requests to the system in accordance with the determined
20 period; and
management means for performing management of the system based on the responses received from the system, wherein the period for sending the management information requests is determined based on an operating status of
25 the system.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the determination means determines a period for sending management information requests by periodically increasing the
30 period by a decay amount if the operating status of the system is determined to be normal.

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11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the determination means determines a period for sending management information requests by periodically reducing the period by a boost amount if the operating status of the system
5 is determined to be other than normal.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the decay amount is variable.

10 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the boost amount is variable.

14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the operating status of the system is determined based on a value of a
15 predicate function.

15. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the apparatus is a management server appliance or thin server.

20 16. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing a system, comprising:

first instructions for determining a period for sending management information requests to the system;

second instructions for sending a management
25 information request to the system in accordance with the determined period; and

third instructions for performing management of the system based on a response received from the system, wherein the period for sending the management information
30 request is determined based on an operating status of the system.

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17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein
the first instructions for determining a period for
sending management information requests includes
instructions for time-decaying the period if the
5 operating status of the system is determined to be
normal.

18. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein
the first instructions for determining a period for
10 sending management information requests includes
instructions for periodically increasing the period by a
decay amount if the operating status of the system is
determined to be normal.

15 19. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein
the first instructions for determining a period for
sending management information requests includes
instructions for periodically reducing the period by a
boost amount if the operating status of the system is
20 determined to be other than normal.

20. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein
the decay amount is variable.

25 21. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein
the boost amount is variable.

22. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein
the operating status of the system is determined based on
30 a value of a predicate function.

23. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein

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the system is one or more of a thin server and a server appliance.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein
5 the computer program product is implemented in a management server appliance or thin server.